



**Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 17 – Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

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*Published by the City of Knoxville’s Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville’s residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.*

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**1. Timbercrest Elects New Leaders, Expands Social Activities**

**Timbercrest Neighborhood Association (TNA)** has elected new officers for the coming year and is adding to the list of social engagements it sponsors for the neighborhood.

The new officers are Whitney Holliday, president, replacing Joe Lopez; Jonathan Lanning, vice president, no predecessor; Steven Lewis, secretary, replacing Julie Lopez; and Ryan Holliday, treasurer, replacing Jennifer Reynolds. Julie Lopez will have charge of communications, and Jamie Kerr will be responsible for the newsletter. Other board members are Jan Bean, Emily Trierweiler, and Andrew Campbell.

Over the next 12 months TNA plans to continue its patriotic mail box decorating contest during July 4<sup>th</sup> week, a Christmas tree lighting, and an Easter egg hunt. New events will include family friendly movies in the neighborhood park during the summer, as well as a fall chili cook-off and tailgate party with a UT football game shown on a big screen in the park.

## **2. South Woodlawn to Dedicate Community Wildlife Kiosk**

The **South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association (SWNA)** will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for its “Community Wildlife Habitat” information kiosk at Sam Duff Memorial Park from 10 a.m. until noon this coming Saturday, May 19.

South Woodlawn neighborhood became the first certified community wildlife habitat in the State of Tennessee back in 2013. Since then, a team of neighbors --- Wildlife Habitats of South Woodlawn ([WHoSW](#)) --- continues to sponsor activities to earn points so the neighborhood can maintain its certification from the [National Wildlife Federation](#).

At the ceremony, Mayor Madeline Rogero will talk about improvements to the park, and refreshments will be served. WHoSW members will relate the history of the project, and visitors can use a new walking path into the woods from Hedgeapple Lane, which borders the park.

The kiosk was designed by a neighbor, Scott Tocher, and was constructed as an Eagle Scout Project by Tyler Chan. One side of the kiosk includes a large poster announcing that South Woodlawn is a wildlife habitat, as well as brochures that explain how to certify your own yard and select garden plants that encourage wildlife.

On the back side of the kiosk, a Community Announcements cork board is available for anyone to use. Native plants were installed next to the kiosk to promote wildlife.

WHoSW began the process of gaining community wildlife certification with a kickoff party in the spring of 2012 and achieved their goal by the fall of 2013.

## **3. Eden Slater to Join the Office of Neighborhoods**

Eden Slater will join the City of Knoxville’s Office of Neighborhoods on June 4 and will succeed Debbie Sharp as Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator when Sharp becomes the Neighborhood Coordinator in mid-June following the retirement of David Massey.

Both Sharp and Slater were appointed by Mayor Madeline Rogero to these posts.

“We were blessed with quite a few top-notch applicants,” Massey noted, “but Eden stood out as a person who will excel at the relationship building that forms the bedrock of what this office is all about. We are really delighted that she chose the Office of Neighborhoods as her next career move.”

Slater is coming full circle. As a member of AmeriCorps, she worked full-time in the Office of Neighborhoods from mid-2012 until mid-2013, focusing on neighborhood emergency preparedness, volunteer recruitment, the neighborhood conference, and a variety of other tasks.

She then filled a vacancy in the Community Development Department until early 2014 before spending a year working in New Zealand.

For the last three years, Slater has been the coordinator of CAC's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). In that capacity she recruited, interviewed and assigned volunteers for all programs of CAC's Office on Aging. She managed 300+ volunteers, 17 volunteer sites, in-kind resources, and all aspects of a federal grant.

Slater holds a double degree in communications and peace studies from the University of Missouri. A renter in the Fourth & Gill neighborhood, she is also active in the Knoxville Track Club, where she coaches adult runners in 5k, half-marathon, and marathon events. She also leads group runs on local greenways, trails, and neighborhood streets, and in local parks.

#### **4. Neighborhood Leaders: Go to a "Recode Knoxville" Open House**

If you are an active member of your neighborhood organization and you have not yet gotten your arms around the proposed new zoning code, now is your chance. Dig in now or play catch-up later. Your choice.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission ([MPC](#)) has scheduled four, hours-long, drop-in Open Houses from May 16-19. By attending an open house, citizens not only can hear a general presentation of the zoning code update, but also take the opportunity to ask in-depth questions of MPC staff. Here are the details:

**\*\*\* Wednesday, May 16**, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at City of Knoxville's Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Avenue. Presentations are at 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

**\*\*\* Thursday, May 17**, 3:00-7:30 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepard, 5409 Jacksboro Pike, Fountain City. Presentations are at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**\*\*\* Friday, May 18**, 7:30-11:30 a.m. at Oakwood Lincoln Park Club House, 916 Shamrock Avenue. Presentations are at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**\*\*\* Saturday, May 19**, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Overcoming Believers Church, 211 Harriet Tubman St. Presentation is at 10:30 a.m.

In addition, Knoxville City Council will hold a zoning code workshop starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for Council members to engage in an in-depth discussion of and ask questions about the first draft of the code with the Camiros consulting firm that is assisting MPC and the City with the code drafts.

The first draft of the new code --- which can be found at <https://recodeknoxville.com/> along with other helpful information --- is a result of months of discussion and public input, with more meetings and public input to follow before a final draft is placed before the Metropolitan Planning Commission and Knoxville City Council this fall.

## **5. City Council to Hold Hearings on 2018-2019 Budget**

Knoxville City Council will hold an all-day hearing this coming Thursday, May 17, on Mayor Madeline Rogero's proposed \$377 million budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018. The public is encouraged to attend.

The hearing begins at 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building. Vice Mayor Finbarr Saunders will make opening comments, followed by Mayor Rogero, Chief Operating Officer David Brace, and Finance Director Jim York.

These remarks, from 8:30-9:45 a.m. offer the best chance to understand the overall budget, including the challenges presented by climbing costs and more or less flat revenues. Then, starting at 9:45 a.m. and lasting until 4:45 p.m., department heads will present overviews of their departmental budgets.

This legislative budget hearing will be followed by a public hearing beginning at 5 p.m. To be called upon to speak, contact the City Council office at 215-2075. Or, prior to the start of the budget hearing, walk on stage and ask City Recorder Will Johnson to put your name on the list of speakers. Each speaker will have up to five minutes to make comments.

[See this web page](#) for the full agenda for the day. See [www.knoxvilletn.gov/budget](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/budget) for the 231-page budget document, the Mayor's budget address, budget highlights, the budget calendar, and other documents.

As required by the City Charter, City Council adopted the budget on first reading at its last meeting. The second reading is scheduled for the May 22 meeting of Council.

## **6. Short-Term Rental Hosts: Take Heed**

Beginning this month, it will be easier for the City of Knoxville to track short-term rental hosts in neighborhoods across the city and ensure that they are operating legally.

Beginning in June, it will be easier for short-term rental hosts who use the Airbnb booking service to pay their local occupancy taxes.

Both steps are part of the City's implementation of its short-term rental ordinance, which was adopted by City Council last December and took effect at the start of 2018. The ordinance allows short-term rentals (STRs) as a legal use for owner-occupants in residential districts and for any property owner in commercial districts that allow residential use.

STR operators must have a business license and an annual permit from the City.

Since January, the City has issued 36 permits for Type 1 (owner-occupied) properties, and 20 for Type 2 (non-owner-occupied) properties in non-residential districts. There were also 14 permits issued for Type 3 properties, which are non-owner-occupied properties that had been previously operating in residential areas and were granted the

option of a non-renewable, one-time one-year permit. (The deadline for applying for a Type 3 permit was Feb. 1, 2018.)

A map showing all permitted STR properties is available on the City website at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/strs](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/strs). On the map, click on the upper left icon and then on the down arrows to see the color code and the list of permitted properties.

To make it easier to enforce the STR ordinance, the City has contracted with Host Compliance, a Silicon Valley-based company that specializes in tracking and identifying STR listings.

Host Compliance will report STR activity, highlighting listings that appear to be operating without a City permit. That will enable City officials to send notification letters to those property owners, informing them of the ordinance and encouraging them to seek a permit. Property owners who do not comply will be subject to citation.

“Our ordinance strikes a balance between allowing short-term rentals in all residential areas and still protecting the quality of life in our neighborhoods,” said Chief Policy Officer and Deputy to the Mayor Bill Lyons. “This contract with Host Compliance is an important part of our effort to monitor STR activity and make sure it is in compliance with the law.”

Also included with the Host Compliance service is a 24-hour hotline for people to call with any complaints or concerns about STR operations. You can reach the hotline at any time of day or night by calling the City’s 311 service.

The City has also signed a tax collection agreement with Airbnb, the largest online short-term rental listing platform, so that occupancy taxes will be collected and remitted directly by Airbnb. That will relieve individual hosts of the need to pay the taxes themselves. (The agreement only covers Airbnb, so hosts will still have to directly pay taxes on any bookings through other platforms.)

The tax agreement will take effect for any Airbnb bookings within the City of Knoxville beginning on June 1. Until then, hosts remain liable for directly paying City occupancy taxes of 3 percent on all bookings.

## **7. BZA Meets Next Week**

Fifteen properties are on the agenda for next week’s meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Established by city ordinance, BZA hears appeals of denials of building permits by the city's Building Inspections Department. The board, consisting of five citizens appointed by the Mayor, meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

BZA meets next Thursday, May 17.

Commercial, office and industrial items on the agenda include: 108 W. Oklahoma Avenue, 2012 N. Broadway, 1708 Boone Street, 8906 Kingston Pike, 1114 Clinch Avenue, 4201 West Martin Mill Pike, 115 Circle Lane, 2226 Chapman Highway, 1931 Middlebrook Pike, and 2223 Cumberland Avenue.

Residentially-zoned properties on the agenda are 2714 Carson Avenue, 1363 Shepard Street, 1605 Forest Avenue, 1007 Milam Circle, and 6731 Ridgerock Lane.

Keep up with how BZA decisions might impact your neighborhood. Watch for the signs indicating that there is a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues --- which are also important --- but signs with the word “variance” are BZA items.

The BZA agenda is posted on the city website. Browse to [www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards) and click on Board of Zoning Appeals. The agenda is posted no later than the Monday prior to the BZA meeting each month.

A neighborhood group that keeps track of BZA will call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at (865) 215-3669 to request and study the paperwork on a particular appeal, decide whether to take a position on the appeal, and then attend the BZA meeting to voice the group’s support or objections. A group can also request a postponement to allow time to meet with the applicant.

Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to Knoxville City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60 days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

## **8. KCS to Share Updates on Disparities in Educational Outcomes**

Knox County Schools next week will hold a public meeting to report the latest updates of the Disparities in Educational Outcomes (DEO) initiative.

Called by the DEO Steering Committee, the meeting will be held from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, in the Fulton High School auditorium, 2509 Broadway.

Specific DEO initiatives include cultural competency training, discipline issues, and ombudsman progress, among others. All parents, students, educators and community members are invited to attend and participate.

[See the DEO website](#) for a list of steering committee members, videos of community forums, contact information for the ombudsmen, the DEO final report and recommendations, and other information. Or contact Jeannie Dulaney at 865-594-1909 and [jeannie.dulaney@knoxschools.org](mailto:jeannie.dulaney@knoxschools.org).

## **9. Enjoy Open Streets This Sunday**

Knoxvillians are invited to walk, bike, jog or dance their way along Sevier Avenue and Suttree Landing Park for the next Open Streets event from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, May 20.

A portion of Sevier Avenue wrapping around to the park at Foggy Bottom Road will be closed to motorized traffic, allowing everyone to play, exercise, socialize, and shop on foot, bicycle, tricycle and wheelchair. For a map and details on music, vendors, and more, [see the event poster](#).

Open Streets Knoxville is hosted by [Bike Walk Knoxville](#) with support from the City of Knoxville, Knoxville Regional TPO, Visit Knoxville and Knox County. Its purpose is to promote physical activity and community interaction at this free community event.

#### **10. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar** (clickable to online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 215-2831.

#### **Other Calendars**

Here are other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)

#### **About This Newsletter**

\*\* *This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*

\*\* *Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*

\*\* *Deadline for news & calendar items: 5 p.m. Mondays*

\*\* *May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*

\*\* *See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*

\*\* *Don't have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*